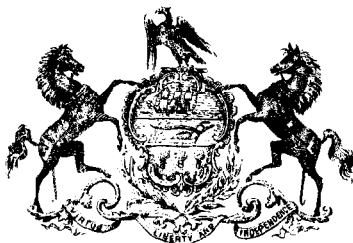


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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CONVENTION  
FOR THE  
PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA,  
FROM JANUARY 23, 1775, TO JANUARY 28 1775.

# PROCEEDINGS.

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At a Provincial Convention for the Province of Pennsylvania, held at Philadelphia, Jan. 23, 1775, and continued by adjournments, from day to day, to the 28th.

## PRESENT:

### *For the City and Liberties of Philadelphia:*

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| John Dickinson, Esq.,  | John Cox,             |
| Thomas Mifflin, Esq.,  | John Bayard,          |
| Charles Thomson, Esq., | Christopher Ludwig,   |
| John Cadwalader, Esq., | Thomas Barclay,       |
| George Clymer, Esq.,   | George Schlosser,     |
| Joseph Reed, Esq.,     | Jonathan B. Smith,    |
| Samuel Meredith,       | Francis Wade,         |
| William Rush,          | Lambert Cadwalader,   |
| James Mease,           | Reynold Keen,         |
| John Nixon,            | Richard Bache,        |
| John Benezet,          | Samuel Penrose,       |
| Jacob Rush,            | Isaac Coates,         |
| William Bradford,      | William Coates,       |
| Elias Boys,            | Blathwaite Jones,     |
| James Robinson,        | Thomas Pryor,         |
| Manuel Eyre,           | Samuel Massey,        |
| Owen Biddle,           | Robert Towers,        |
| William Heysham,       | Henry Jones,          |
| James Milligan,        | Joseph Wetherill,     |
| John Wilcox,           | Joseph Copperthwaite, |
| Sharp Delany,          | Joseph Dean,          |
| Francis Gurney,        | Benjamin Harbeson,    |
| John Purviance,        | James Ash,            |
| Robert Knox,           | Benjamin Loxley,      |
| Francis Hassenclaver,  | William Robinson,     |
| Thomas Cuthbert, Sen., | Ricloff Alberson,     |
| William Jackson,       | James Irvine.         |
| Isaac Melcher,         |                       |

*Philadelphia County.*

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| George Gray, Esq.,   | Benjamin Jacobs,    |
| John Bull, Esq.,     | John Moore, Esq.,   |
| Samuel Ashmead, Esq. | Samuel Miles, Esq., |
| Samuel Ervine, Esq., | Edward Milnor,      |
| John Roberts,        | Jacob Laughlan,     |
| Thomas Ashton,       | Melchior Waggoner.  |

*Chester County.*

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Anthony Wayne, Esq.,   | Lewis Davis,        |
| Hugh Lloyd,            | William Montgomery, |
| Richard Thomas,        | Joseph Musgrave,    |
| Francis Johnson, Esq., | Joshua Evans,       |
| Samuel Fairlamb,       | Persifer Frazer.    |

*Lancaster County.*

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Adam Simon Kuhn, Esq., | Sebastian Graaff,  |
| James Clemson, Esq.,   | David Jenkins,     |
| Peter Grubb,           | Bartram Galbraith. |

*York County.*

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| James Smith, Esq.,    | John Hay,       |
| Thomas Hartley, Esq., | George Irwin,   |
| Joseph Donaldson,     | Michael Smyser. |
| George Eichelberger,  |                 |

*Cumberland County.*

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| James Wilson, Esq., | Robert Magaw, Esq. |
|---------------------|--------------------|

*Berks County.*

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Edward Biddle, Esq.,  | Mark Bird, Esq.,   |
| Christopher Schultz,  | John Patton, Esq., |
| Jonathan Potts, Esq., | Baltzer Gehr, Esq. |
| Sebastian Levan,      |                    |

*Northampton County.*

|                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| George Taylor, Esq., | Peter Kechlien,   |
| John Oakley,         | Jacob Arndt, Esq. |

*Northumberland County.*

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| William Plunket, Esq., | Casper Weitsell, Esq. |
|------------------------|-----------------------|

The chairman of the Philadelphia committee opened the convention, by explaining the motives which induced said committee to propose the holding this convention.

Joseph Reed, Esq, was chosen President of this convention.

Messrs. Jonathan B. Smith, John Benezet and Francis Johnson, Esq., were chosen secretaries.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the committee of the city of Philadelphia and each county committee, shall have one vote in determining every question that may come before this convention.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That this convention most heartily approve of the conduct and proceedings of the continental congress. That we will faithfully endeavour to carry into execution, the measures of the association entered into, and recommended, by them, and that the members of that very respectable body, merit our warmest thanks, by their great and disinterested labours for the preservation of the rights and liberties of the British colonies.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That it be, and it is hereby recommended to the several members of this convention to promote and encourage instructions or advice from their several counties, to their representatives in general assembly, to procure a law prohibiting the future importation of slaves into this province.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That in case the trade of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, shall be suspended in consequence of the present struggle, it is the opinion of this convention that the several counties should, and that the members of this convention will, exert themselves to afford all the necessary relief and assistance to the inhabitants of the said city and liberties, who will be more immediately affected by such an event.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That if any opposition shall be given to any of the committees of this province in carrying the association of the continental congress into execution, the committees of the other counties, in order to preserve the said association inviolate, will give all the weight and assistance in their power to the committee who shall meet with such opposition.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That it is the most earnest wish and desire of this convention to see harmony restored between Great Britain and the colonies. That we will exert our utmost endeavors for the attainment of that most desirable object. That it is the opinion of this body that the commercial opposition pointed out by the continental congress, if faithfully adhered to, will be the means of rescuing this unhappy country from the evils meditated against it. But if the humble and loyal petition of said congress to his most gracious majesty should be disregarded, and the British administration instead of redressing our grievances, should determine by force to effect a submission to the late arbitrary acts of the British parliament, in such a situation we hold it our indispensable duty to resist such force, and at every hazard to defend the rights and liberties of America.

WHEREAS, It has been judged necessary for the preservation of our just rights and liberties to lay a restraint on our importation, and as the freedom, happiness and prosperity of a state greatly depend on providing within itself a supply of articles necessary for subsistence, cloathing and defence, a regard for our country as well as common prudence call upon us to encourage agriculture, manufactures and economy. Therefore this convention do resolve as follows :

*Resolved*, unanimously, That from and after the first day of March next, no person or persons should use in his, her, or their families, unless in cases of necessity, and on no account sell to the butchers, or kill for the market any sheep under four years old. And where there is a necessity for using any mutton in their families, it is recommended to them to kill such as are the least profitable to keep.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the setting up of woollen manufactures in as many different branches as possible ; especially coating, flannel, blankets, rugs or coverlids, hosiery and coarse cloths both broad and narrow.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the raising and manufacturing of madder, wood and such other dye stuffs as may be raised in this province to advantage, and are absolutely necessary in the woollen manufacturies.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That each person, having proper land, should raise a quantity of flax and hemp sufficient, not only

for the use of his own family, but also to spare to others on moderate terms. And that it be recommended to the farmers to provide themselves early with a sufficient quantity of seed for the proposed increase of the above articles of hemp and flax.

*Resolved*, unanimously, As salt is a daily and almost indispensable necessary of life, and the making of it among ourselves must be esteemed a valuable acquisition, we therefore recommend the making of it, in the manner used in England and other countries; and are of opinion it may be done with success in the interior parts of the province where there are salt springs as well as on the sea coasts.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That saltpetre being an article of great use and consumption, we recommend the making of it, and are further of opinion it may be done to great advantage.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That the necessity we may be under for gunpowder, especially in the Indian trade, induces us to recommend the manufacturing that article as largely as possible, by such persons who are or may be owners of powder mills in this province.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the manufacturing of iron into nails and wire, and all other articles necessary for carrying on our manufactures evidently in general use, and which of consequence, should our happy differences continue, will be in great demand.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we are of opinion the making of steel ought to be largely prosecuted as the demand for this article will be great.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the making of different kinds of paper, now in use among us, to the several manufactures; and as the success of this branch depends on a supply of old linen and woollen rags, request the people of this province, in their respective houses, may order the necessary steps to be taken for preserving these otherwise useless articles.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That as the consumption of glass is greater than the glass houses now established among us can supply, we recommend the setting up other glass houses, and are of opinion they would turn out to the advantage of the proprietors.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That whereas wool combs and cards have, for some time, been manufactured in some of the neighbouring colonies, and are absolutely necessary for carrying on the hosiery and cloathing business, we do recommend the establishing such a manufactory in this province.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we also recommend the manufacturing of copper into sheets, bottoms and kettles.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the erecting a greater number of fulling mills and mills for breaking, swinging and softening hemp and flax, and also the making of grindstones in this country.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That as the brewing of large quantities of malt liquors, within this province, would tend to render the consumption of foreign liquors less necessary; it is, therefore, recommended that proper attention be given to the cultivation of barley; and that the several brewers, both in city and country, do encourage it, by giving a reasonable and sufficient price for the same.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend to all the inhabitants of this province, and do promise for ourselves in particular, to use our own manufactures, and those of the other colonies, in preference to all others.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That for the more speedy and effectually putting these resolves in execution, we do earnestly recommend societies may be established in different parts, and are of opinion that premiums ought to be granted in the several counties to persons who may excel in the several branches of manufactory, and we do further engage that we, in our separate committees, will promote them to the utmost of our power.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That if any manufacturer or vender of goods and merchandizes in this province, shall take advantage of the necessities of his country, by selling his goods or merchandize at an unusual and extravagant profit, such person shall be considered as an enemy to his country, and be advertised as such, by the committee of the place where such offender dwells.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That we recommend the making tin plates, as an article worthy the attention of the people of this province.

*Resolved*, unanimously, That as printing types are now made to a considerable degree of perfection by an ingenius artist in



Germantown, it is recommended to the printers to use such types in preference to any which may be hereafter imported.

On motion, *Resolved*, unanimously, That the committee of correspondence for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, be a standing committee of correspondence for the several counties here represented, and that if it should at any time hereafter appear to the committee of the city and liberties that the situation of public affairs render a provincial convention necessary, that the said committee of correspondence do give the earliest notice thereof to the committees of the several counties.

*Ordered*, That the proceedings of this convention be sent to the press and printed in English and German, under the direction of the president and Messrs. Jonathan B. Smith and John Benezet.

A true copy,

JONATHAN B. SMITH,

JOHN BENEZET,

FRANCIS JOHNSTON,

*Secretaries.*